



PATENT
Docket No. 400-009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Andrea F. Bell

Entitled: UTILITY APRON

Filed: July 28, 1997

Serial No.: 08/901,713

Group Art Unit: 3728

Examiner: J. Foster

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION OF GEORGE E. MILLICAN, JR.

I, GEORGE E. MILLICAN, JR., being over the age of 21, hereby state and declare as follows:

1. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Arts, and have worked, among other things, as an art teacher. From about 1994 to 1997, I ran a commercial and residential cleaning business, in which I was a full time housekeeper and had six employees who worked for me. I cleaned three to four houses per day and had a line of professional commercial buildings, H&R Block being one of them. I now work at the cleaning business on a part time basis.

2. I am familiar with Andrea Bell. I became familiar with her when she came to do some printing at my current work.

3. I also am generally familiar with the captioned patent application
(Serial No. 08/901,713, hereinafter the "patent application").

4. I am familiar with Andrea Bell's commercial utility apron. I have been familiar with this product since about 1997.

5. At present, I have no involvement with Ms. Bell, and I have no financial, ownership or other beneficial interest in her business, her utility apron product, or the patent application.

6. When cleaning interiors or windows outside, it was necessary to carry with me a device to collect and hold all these items. In the past, this has typically been done by using a bucket, a caddy, etc. These items have been less than satisfactory. For example, the caddy keeps falling over outside when doing windows and they won't hold all of my things. I find myself pulling everything out to get what I am looking for.

7. Andrea Bell's invention as presently claimed in the patent application solves all of these problems. The Apron now conveniently holds all these products. The resilient opening firmly grips and holds the items. This design has the advantage over prior utility aprons in that it makes the cleaning items readily accessible while holding them securely.

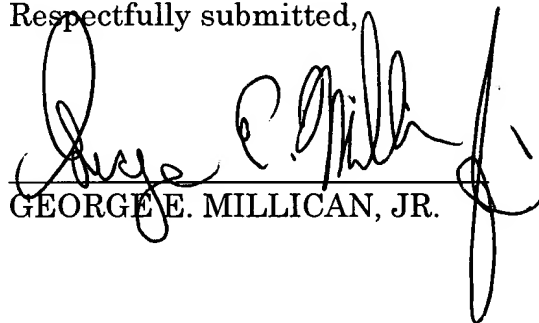
8. To my knowledge, Ms. Bell is the first one to suggest the idea of using a utility apron for retaining cleaning items in which a resilient opening is provided in an apron for more securely holding the items.

9. I believe the present invention, as it is now claimed in the patent application, and as embodied in the product, successfully solves these previously unrecognized and unmet needs.

I declare under penalty of perjury that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and correct, and that all statements made herein upon information and belief are believed to be true and correct. I acknowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both (18 U.S.C. § 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: March 19, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



GEORGE E. MILLICAN, JR.

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